SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

YOTA ONLINE SESSION 4 "YOTA SUMMER CAMPS" ON 27 AUGUST

THE RAE ON SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

and

THE SARL HAMNET WINTER EXERCISE NEXT WEEKEND

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

YOTA ONLINE SESSION 4 "YOTA SUMMER CAMPS" ON 27 AUGUST

Are you ready for our upcoming YOTA online session already? Set your alarms for 18:00 UTC (20:00 CAT) on Thursday 27 August 2020. In this newest episode the team will present the main topic "YOTA Summer Camps". We will also have a prize draw after you solved our new riddle live on the show. So, stay tuned and be excited!

We will be streaming live again on our YouTube, Facebook and Twitch channels. Furthermore, we try to stream via the QO-100 geostationary satellite in DATV mode again.

Here are the links to our channels - YouTube - www.youtube.com/hamyota, Twitch - www.twitch.tv/hamyota and Facebook - www.facebook.com/hamyota

If you have questions while the event takes place do not hesitate to ask them. Please keep in mind that we will be monitoring only the chats on Facebook, YouTube and Twitch while we are streaming live. All other comments will be answered afterwards for sure.

THE RAE ON SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

The long-awaited May RAE will be written from 10:00 CAT on Saturday 29 August at various exam centres around the country. And the virus pandemic can be blamed for the delay! Candidates and the invigilators are requested to adhere to the relevant health regulations and protocols as stated in the RAE documentation which has been sent to the exam centres. Please ensure that the HF Assessments have been completed before the exam is written and candidates

go through the learning material once more before Saturday! SARL News wishes all the candidates all the best with the exam.

MULTI-OPERATOR CONTESTS

Don Beattie, G3BJ, the President of IARU Region 1 says, "Multi-Operator Contests bring radio amateurs together and so can represent an environment where social distancing can be difficult to achieve. We must recognize that many radio amateurs are in the older, higher-risk age groups. We had hoped that by now, the Covid-19 pandemic would be subsiding, but after improvements over the summer, the opposite now appears to be the case in several European countries. Despite this, we know that many Member Societies want to keep the Multi-operator class in their National and International contests in 2020.

It is up to the National Member Societies to examine the situation in their own country and to decide if it is appropriate to hold the Multi-operator class in their country."

With the SARL National Field Day on 12 and 13 September, the All Africa DX Contest on 19 and 20 September and the VHF/UHF Contests in September and November, participants must consider how they will use the multi-operator class in these contests.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE SARL HAMNET WINTER EXERCISE NEXT WEEKEND

Grant Southey, ZS1GS, National Director reports that SARL HAMNET, the emergency communications division of the South African Radio League, will be holding a blackout exercise from 10:00 UTC on Saturday 29 August 2020 until 10:00 UTC on Sunday 30 August 2020. Teams will be using JS8Call, Winlink P2P and phone as required on various frequencies on the 80, 40 and 20 metre bands. Get all the information from www.eyedeal.co.za/blackout/

If you come across messages on these bands, they may include cryptic messages (not encrypted) and we will steer away from any messages which can be construed as true emergencies, but our messages may include positions and sitreps. Please feel free to chip in but can we request that all interactions be kept to a minimum.

THE SARL HF CW CONTEST NEXT SUNDAY

The last of the SARL HF Contests is the CW Contest and will be on the air from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC on Sunday 30 August with activity on 80, 40 and 20 metres. The exchange is a RST report and a serial number starting at 001. Each QSO counts 1 point. Each call area (8) worked per band counts 2 points. The same station worked on 80, 40 and 20 metres counts 2 points. Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo with a summary sheet or make use of the downloadable MS Excel spreadsheet which includes the summary sheet. The logs must reach the Contest Committee at zs4bfn@mweb.co.za by no later than 23:59 CAT on

Sunday 6 September 2020. Turn to page 35 of the 2020 Blue Book for the rules. Please do not submit any PDF documents.

CONTEST RESULTS

Thirty four logs were received for the ZS5 Sprint held on Sunday 5 July and 815 QSOs were made during the Sprint.

1st Mitch Rundle, ZS2DK – 100 points

2nd Sybrand Cillie, ZS1SJ – 75 points

3rd Barry Nugent, ZS2NF – 74 points

4th Woody Collett, ZS3WL – 73 points

The full set of results will be published in HF Happenings 914.

The contest committee received 25 logs for the SARL YL Sprint held on Sunday 9 August 2020.

1st Alta Gaybba, ZR3PA – 233 points

2nd Sonet de Wet, ZS3SW – 230 points

3rd Karin Andrew, ZS6MMA – 143 points

The combined results of the YL Sprints of 8 March and 9 August 2020

1st Alta Gaybba, ZR3PA – 429 points

2nd Sonet de Wet, ZS3SW – 426 points

3rd Karin Andrew, ZS6MMA – 316 points

The contest committee received 7 logs for the SARL Youth Sprint held on Monday 10 August 2020. Maybe the time has come to cancel the Youth Sprint!

1st Woody Collett, ZS3WL – 38 points

2nd Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC – 31 points

3rd Helmar Otto, ZS1H and Peter Leonard, ZS5PL – 15 points

The combined results of the Youth Sprints of 16 June and 10 August 2020

1st Woody Collett, ZS3WL – 98 points

2nd Helmar Otto, ZS1H – 54 points

3rd Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC- 39 points

The full set of results for the two Sprints was published in HF Happenings 913.

THE PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There is a single sunspot region with a simple magnetic configuration visible. No major flaring activity is expected. If you want to do your own

frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 20, 30 and 40 m bands will, especially around sunset, provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a Diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

27 August – YOTA Online

29 August – the Radio Amateur Examination

29 and 30 August – the SARL HAMNET Winter Exercise

30 August – the SARL HF CW Contest

5 September – the West Rand Flea Market

5 and 6 September – the Region 1 and RSGB SSB Field Days and the GQRP Club Online Convention

7 September – Settlers Day - arrival of the 1820 Settlers 200 years ago

12 and 13 September – the SARL National Field Day

15 September – the Highway ARC meeting

16 September –the SARL 80 m Wednesday Club Sprint

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main story:

Are you ready for our upcoming YOTA online session already? Set your alarms for 18:00 UTC (20:00 CAT) on Thursday 27 August 2020. In this newest episode the team will present the main topic "YOTA Summer Camps". We will also have a prize draw after you solved our new riddle live on the show. So, stay tuned and be excited!

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband from Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.